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P-196

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12 October 1956

MEMORANDUM FOR: Chief, Technical Services Staff

THROUGH: DD/P Materiel Board

SUBJECT: Investigation of Terrain Warning Devices

1. The dangers inherent in flying aircraft at minimum safe altitudes make it imperative that a terrain warning device be procured to assist crews in the completion of their hazardous missions.

2. Accordingly it is requested that your Staff initiate a program looking toward the development of techniques and devices having the following capabilities:

a. Present to the crew an audible or visible warning of obstructions in the flight path.

b. Present the warning in sufficient time to allow for corrective action.

c. Be of a nature to be operable during adverse weather conditions, such as snow and rain.

d. Has minimum detectability by enemy counter-measures.

e. Be of such weight and size as to be easily installed in aircraft.

f. Be adaptable to the electrical power systems in the RB-69.

g. Have a high degree of reliability.

3. The Air-Maritime Division will request the DD/P Materiel Board to process and establish specific requirements which will be forwarded to TSS when compiled.

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4. Since the RB-69's are currently being modified for operational use, it is requested that the Air-Maritime Division be informed of any devices which meet the above criteria and are readily available for installation. While an interim system would be acceptable initially, since it is anticipated that this requirement will exist for the next five or seven years, it is desirable that a sophisticated system meeting the criteria listed in paragraph 2 above be developed. For additional information please call M [redacted]

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/s/ [redacted]

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Chief

Psychological & Paramilitary Staff

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